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Annual Report

AND

Vital Statistics

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF KNUTSFORD.

BY

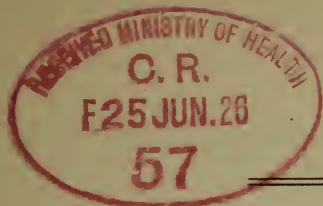
ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

M.B., Ch.B.Vict., M.R.C.S.E., L.R.C.P.L.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District, and also
for the Rural District of Bucklow; Medical Adviser to
the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board; etc.

Gongleton:

PRINTED BY ROBT. HEAD, AT THE "CHRONICLE" OFFICE—120—26.5.26



1925.

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The Urban District of Knutsford.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1925.

PART I.

Area of District, 1,760 Acres.

Estimated Population 1925, 5,499.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,257.

Number of Working Class Houses, 816.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 1,382.

Rateable Value, £36,815 os. od.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £132 7s. 6d.

Birth Rate per 1,000 living, 12.5.

General Birth Rate (England and Wales), 18.3.

Death Rate per 1,000 living, 8.3.

General Death Rate (England and Wales), 12.2.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth, 0.

Deaths under one year in proportion to 1,000 Births, 57.

“ “ “ “ “ “

(England and Wales), 75.

Deaths from Measles, 0.

Deaths from Whooping-cough, 0.

Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years old) 1.

The Total Number of Deaths from all causes was 45, of which 4 were children under one year old, and 24 were persons of over 65 years.

PART II.—TABLES.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Gross Population.	Nett Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFER-ABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
			Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
				Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1911	5983	5124	126	113	22'0	113	...	54	4	9	80	63	12'3
1912	6027	5168	111	96	18'6	120	...	57	4	9	94	67	13'0
1913	5831	5212	131	120	23'0	105	...	51	4	8	67	58	10'8
1914	5734	5223	111	104	19'9	97	...	44	9	11	106	62	11'6
1915	5379	4917	102	94	19'1	109	...	61	14	6	64	62	12'3
1916	5814	4892	97	88	18'0	142	...	43	5	4	45	61	12'1
1917	5814	4892	82	73	14'9	151	...	97	7	5	68	61	12'1
1918	For birth-rate 5299		80	68	12'47	112	...	59	10	3	45	63	13'25
	For death-rate 4754												
1919	For birth-rate 5044		85	76	14'78	113	...	56	10	1	13	67	13'8
	For death-rate 4842												
1920	5035		116	107	21'2	100	...	44	9	7	63	65	12'9
1921	5390		118	101	18'6	117	...	52	11	8	79	65	12'0
1922	5433		106	100	18'3	106	...	48	14	8	80	72	13'2
1923	5448		111	105	19'2	104	...	61	10	1	9	53	9'7
1924	5482		80	84	15'3	131	...	62	7	6	71	76	13'8
1925	5499		79	69	12'5	89	...	49	5	4	57	45	8'3

The Death-rate in Knutsford in 1925 is the lowest of any district (including Municipal Boroughs, Urban and Rural Districts) in the administrative County of Chester,

TABLE II.

Diseases Notified under Acts and Orders during 1925.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.		65 and upwards.
Small-pox ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera—Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ..	19	1	14	4	..	..	..	14
Erysipelas ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	5	1	4	..	..	..	..	4
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	6(a)	..	..	2	2	2	..	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1(b)	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malaria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ...	32	1	19	6	2	2	2	21

(a) Males aged 18, 26, 34, 48, 48.

Female aged 16.

(b) Male aged 5.

TABLE III.

Deaths Registered during the Calendar Year 1925 classified by age and cause.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 & under 2 years.	2 & under 5 years.	5 & under 15 years.	15 & under 25 years.	25 & under 45 years.	45 & under 65 years.	65 & up- wards.	
All Causes { Certified ..	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
{ Uncertified	0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1(a)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	...	5
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	10	...	1	...	...	...	5	4	...	4
Bronchitis	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	9
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	5
Other Diseases of Respira- tory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ... (under 2 years)	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	10
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
Arterio-sclerosis	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	6
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Dis- eases of Pregnancy and Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, includ- ing Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Defined Diseases	5	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	12
Diseases ill-defined or un- known	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	45	4	2	0	1	1	1	12	24	60

(a) Female age 53.

TABLE IV.

Infant Mortality.

1925. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months.	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes	Certified	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
	Uncertified	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Convulsions	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Laryngitis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Diarrhoea	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atrophy, Debility, & Marasmus...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Causes	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Totals		..	..	..	..	0	..	..	3	1	4

Nett Births registered { legitimate 67
during the calendar year { illegitimate 2

Nett Deaths registered { legitimate infants 4
during the calendar year of { illegitimate infants 0

TABLE V.
Notifications of Infectious Diseases.
 (No records prior to 1895).

Year.	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Phthisis.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Measles.	Pneumonia.	TOTAL.
1895	—	17	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	21
1896	—	5	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	11
1897	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
1898	—	—	1	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	5
1899	—	62	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	68
1900	—	3	7	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	14
1901	—	7	5	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	15
1902	—	2	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	8
1903	4	7	6	1	1	6	—	—	—	—	25
1904	2	2	7	1	2	3	—	—	—	—	17
1905	—	2	4	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	14
1906	—	40	4	8	—	5	—	—	—	—	57
1907	—	52	4	6	1	1	—	—	—	—	64
1908	—	10	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	14
1909	—	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
1910	—	21	—	37	—	2	—	—	—	—	60
1911	—	20	—	8	1	—	6	—	—	—	35
1912	—	6	1	—	—	1	13	—	—	—	21
1913	—	1	4	1	1	2	11	7	—	—	27
1914	—	—	6	1	1	—	4	4	—	—	16
1915	—	9	4	1	—	3	6	6	—	—	29
1916	—	15	4	—	—	6	9	9	22	—	65
1917	—	39	3	1	—	1	10	2	32	—	88
1918	—	9	3	—	—	1	5	7	350	—	375
1919	—	10	3	1	1	1	8	3	20	—	47
1920	—	4	—	—	3	5	6	1	—	4	23
^a 1921	—	23	4	1	1	—	7	4	—	7	47
1922	—	93	44	—	—	—	6	3	—	4	150
1923	—	24	7	—	—	2	4	1	—	2	41
^b 1924	—	3	1	—	—	—	4	5	—	0	15
^c 1925	—	5	19	—	—	—	6	1	—	0	32

(a) Encephalitis lethargica 1.
 Ophthalmia neonatorum 1.

(b) Encephalitis lethargica 2.

(c) Ophthalmia neonatorum 1.

TABLE VI.

Deaths from Special Diseases.

Year.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria.	Whooping-cough.	Enteric Fever	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Other Forms of Tuberculosis.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	TOTAL.
1890	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	7
1891	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	No	—	6
1892	—	6	1	—	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	12
1893	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	3	—	Records	—	6
1894	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	4
1895	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	6
1896	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	6
1897	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	10
1898	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	6	—	—	—	16
1899	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4	—	1	—	9
1900	—	—	—	2	—	2	3	4	—	1	—	12
1901	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	2	—	—	—	9
1902	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	9
1903	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	2	—	—	—	8
1904	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	3	—	1	—	9
1905	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	3	—	1	—	8
1906	—	5	1	—	—	2	1	2	—	—	1	12
1907	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	8
1908	—	3	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	8
1909	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
1910	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5	—	—	1	10
1911	—	—	—	—	5	1	3	2	—	—	—	11
1912	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	13
1913	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	7
1914	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	6	2	—	—	11
1915	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	3	—	—	8
1916	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	7
1917	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	7
1918	—	4	—	1	—	—	2	2	3	—	—	12
1919	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	3	—	—	11
1920	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	8	—	2	—	11
1921	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	—	—	7
1922	—	—	2	3	1	—	—	6	1	—	—	13
1923	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	—	1	8
1924	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	—	9
1925	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2

TABLE VII.

Cheshire County Council.

Tabular Statement of Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended
December, 31st, 1925.

The Urban District of Knutsford.

A Nature of Inspections Made.	Number	B Number of Notices served.		C Result of Service of Notices.			
		Statu- tory.	Inform- al.	Notices compli- ed with.	Remain- ing in hand	Prosecutions, Insti- tuted.	Pend- ing.
1. Dwelling Houses (general inspections) ...	170	23	47	70	...	...	...
2. Cellar Dwellings ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Back-to-Back Houses ...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c. ...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Courts, Yards, Passages ..	45	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Privy-Middens, Earth or Pail Closets ...	523	64	120	184	...	...	...
7. Cesspools ...	30	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. House Drainage ...	94	21	55	76	...	...	...
9. Ditches, Watercourses, &c., 27, Samples of Water 8, = 35 ...	35	1	...	...	1	...	...
10. Offensive Accumulations ...	86	1	26	27	...	...	...
11. The keeping of Animals (P.H.A., 1875, S. 91 (3))	20	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13. (a) Slaughterhouses (Public) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" (Private) ...	79	8	14	22	...	...	...
(b) Other Places where Food is produced or sold	323	...	...	...	...	...	...
14. Piggeries ...	23	...	...	...	...	...	...
15. (a) Dairies ...	16	...	3	3	...	...	...
(b) Cowsheds ...	31	4	20	24	...	...	...
(c) Milkshops ..	10	...	4	4	...	...	...
16. (a) Factories ...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...
(b) Workshops ...	65	...	...	...	...	...	...
(c) Workplaces ...	15	...	3	3	...	...	...
(d) Outworkers' Premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17. Bakehouses (Overground) ...	50	4	33	37	...	...	...
" (Underground) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18. Common Lodging Houses ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19. Houses let in Lodgings ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20. Smoke Observations ...	21	...	...	...	...	...	...
21. Canal Boats ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Infectious Disease Inquiries and Re-visits ...	83	...	...	...	...	...	...
23. Miscellaneous ...	172	...	33	33	...	...	...
Totals ...	1943	126	358	484	1	...	...

(Signed) R. WILSON MARSHALL.

TABLE VIII.

Cheshire County Council.

 TABULAR SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK
 DURING 1925.

NAME OF DISTRICT—KNUTSFORD URBAN.

I.—WATER SUPPLY.

1. Have any extensions been carried out during 1925?—If so please append brief note. None. The Water Supply of the District is owned by a private Company: The Knutsford Light and Water Co., Ltd.
2. Number of samples analysed during 1925—chemically None by the Council.
bacteriologically 8.
3. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper supply of water?— Only the most outlying and isolated houses.

II.—SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

1. Specify any new works of sewerage carried out during 1925?—None.
2. Are any, and if so what, parts of your district still without a proper system of sewers?— Only the most isolated parts of the District.
3. Have there been any complaints to your knowledge during 1925 as to the disposal works?—Yes. Outfall Works inadequate to treat volume of sewage. A new Scheme is now approved by the Ministry of Health, and arrangements are now being made by the Council to carry out the Scheme.
4. Have any alterations or extensions taken place to your knowledge in the disposal works during 1925?—None.

III.—HOUSING.

1. Number of new houses built during 1925?—None.

2. Number of dwelling-houses inspected under s. 17 Act of 1909—None.
3. Number of such houses considered unfit for habitation—None.
4. Number of representations made to Local Authority—None.
5. Number of closing orders made by Local Authority—None.
6. Number of houses where defects remedied without closing orders being made—None.
7. Number of houses where defects remedied after closing orders made.—None.
8. Estimated or ascertained number of houses within limits of rent in s. 14 of Act of 1909—816.
9. Number of such houses in respect of which notice was served during 1925—None.
10. Number of such houses closed after notice—None.
11. Number of such houses where Local Authority has executed necessary repairs, etc.—None.
12. Approximate number of back-to-back houses in district—14.
13. Approximate number of cellar dwellings in district—None.
14. What number of dwelling-houses for the working classes has your Council, decided are required under the recent Housing Act? —

IV.—TOWN PLANNING.

- Has any scheme of Town Planning been put forward during 1925 for your District or any part thereof? If so please make brief note of (a) part of District covered by scheme.—None
- (b) Area.
- (c) Population.
- (d) How far has the Scheme progressed at date of making this Report?

V. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

1. Has a Health Visitor been appointed.—Part time.
2. Are all new births which need visitation seen by Health Visitor?—Yes. If so how often?—Twice monthly.
3. Are these infants visited regularly until 5 years of age?—Yes. If so, how often?—Six times yearly and more often if required.
4. Have you any Maternity Centre, Babies' Welcome, Day Nursery, Infant Consultation, School for Mothers, etc., in your district?—Yes. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.
5. If the Health Visitor does other work please give brief particulars.—Acts as District Nurse.

(Signed) ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

TABLE IX.

9.—HOUSING.

STATISTICS 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) Total | 0 |
| (b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919,
1923 or 1924 | |
| (i) By the Local Authority | 0 |
| (ii) By other bodies or persons | 0 |

1.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 170 |
| (2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 | 0 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 0 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 0 |

2—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers | 0 |
|---|---|

3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. Proceedings under section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 0 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) by owners | 0 |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | 0 |

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close o

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 170
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—
- (a) by owners 169
- (b) by Local Authority in default of owners o

C. Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders o
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made o
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit o
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made o
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders o

TABLE X.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year
1925, for the Urban District of Knutsford,On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,
in connection with

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories	21	...	...
(Including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	16	3	...
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
Workplaces	103	33	...
(Other than Outworkers' premises)			
Total	140	36	...

2—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Number of Defects

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*				
Want of cleanliness	36	36	...	...
Want of ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation—				
Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	...	...	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Power) Order, 1921).	—	—	—	—
Total	36	36	—	—

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Work-
shop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES, SECTION 108

None in the District.

(Signed) ARTHUR T. BLEASE.

The Urban District of Knutsford.

PART III.

Knutsford is a country town and is the centre of an agricultural area which forms a part of the Rural District of Bucklow. At the present time in addition to its above character it is developing as a residential suburb of Manchester.

As this is what the Ministry of Health call a Survey Annual Report in which reference may be made to the preceding five years the following are mentioned as the chief points of Public Health interest :

(1) The water supply has, under strong and persistent pressure by the Council been very much improved through the installation of a chlorinating plant by the Water Company. It is now very rarely that any of the frequent samples analysed show other than a very high degree of purity.

(2) A completely new sewerage scheme has been adopted by the Council and approved by the Ministry. Work is to be commenced directly.

(3) Arrangements have been made to pay medical practitioners a fee for obtaining and forwarding to the Manchester Public Health Laboratory specimens for examination in suspected cases of infectious disease. This is a very right thing and has undoubtedly saved expense to the ratepayers for hospital maintenance and also much ill-health and absence from school and employment. It should in my opinion be made compulsory on all sanitary authorities to have such arrangements. My experience in Knutsford and in the Bucklow Rural District is that no doctor has ever abused the system, and in the short period it has been in operation case after case has come to my knowledge where a case of diphtheria has been found in a house with 4 to 6 children in it, where the affected person presented such slight clinical evidence of diphtheria that diagnosis was quite impossible apart from examination of a swab, and as a result of such examination and removal of the affected person, no extension of the disease to others has occurred.

(4) The death-rate for 1925 is only 8.3 per thousand, i.e. 30 per cent below the average of the preceding 14 years.

(5) The Infantile Mortality figure is only 4 below the average of the preceding 14 years but it is 18 below the average of the country as a whole.

WATER SUPPLY.

The improvement consequent upon the chlorination method referred to in last year's Report has been maintained. Nine samples of water, supplied to the town by the Knutsford Light and Water Co., have been obtained from the Hydrants in the water mains in various parts of the town and forwarded to the Analysts for Bacteriological Examination and report and the following is a summary of their analysis :—

Number.	Date of Sample 1925.	Bacillus coli.
1	Jan. 19	Doubtful in 5.0 c.c. Doubtful in 10.0 c.c. Positive in 15.0 c.c.
2	Feb. 18	Negative in 1.0 c.c. Positive in 2.5 c.c.
3	Mar. 24	Negative in 80.0 c.c.
4	May 21	Absent in 35.0 c.c. Present in 50.0 c.c.
5	June 15	Negative in 16.0 c.c. Positive in 20.0 c.c.
6	July 27	Negative in 33.0 c.c. Positive in 50.0 c.c.
7	Aug. 18	Negative in 5.0 c.c. Positive in 10.0 c.c.
8	Sep. 10	Negative in 100.0 c.c.
9	Nov. 13	Negative in 85.0 c.c.

Note.—All samples of water are taken within one hour of notice being given to the Manager of the Company so that one of their officials may be present. In some cases an official of the Company was present when the sample was taken.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

As the Council have arranged for early commencement of the new Sewage Scheme for the whole of the District it is not necessary to reproduce details of the samples of effluent analysed during 1925. It is sufficient to say that the best has been made of the existing, admittedly inadequate arrangements during the year.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK, SCAVENGING AND CLEANING.

As a precaution against the spreading of Infectious Disease the schools in the district have been disinfected during the summer holidays and at other times when thought necessary.

CONVERSION OF OFFENSIVE PAIL CLOSETS INTO WATER CLOSETS.

Six Offensive Pail Closets have been converted into Six Water Closets. In carrying out these conversions it has been necessary to retrain the six houses where the conversions have been made.

DRAINAGE WORK.

Nine houses have been completely redrained during the year. All new drains laid have been tested with water pressure before being covered in.

STREET GULLIES.

All the Street Gullies on the District Roads have been cleaned out monthly.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE AND CLEANSING.

Applications for Removal of Ashes	6
Ashpits and Privies cleansed	1224
Pail Closets cleansed	2536
Ashbins cleansed	71562
Cesspools cleansed	10
Motor Loads of refuse removed	2041

Note.—The number of loads of house refuse removed is less in number than the previous years but the actual work done is greater than before as a Motor is now substituted for two horse drawn vehicles.

Note.—All Ashbins and Pail Closets are cleansed weekly.

The cleansing of Privies and Ashpits has increased by 172 which shows that these conveniences have been cleansed slightly oftener.

The cleansing of Pail Closets has decreased by 942, which corresponds with the decrease of these conveniences.

The increase of the cleansing of Ashbins and the decrease in the cleansing of Pail Closets (converted into W.C.s) is accounted for by the increased number of Ashbins and the decrease in number of the Pail Closets now in use.

The Ashpits and Privies are cleansed about once a month. The following numbers are almost if not quite accurate. They are very satisfactory if compared with corresponding figures for most similar towns and will still further improve when the new Sewage Scheme is in operation :

Water Closets	1725
Slop-Water Closets	140
Pail Closets	47
Midden Closets	52
Dry Ashpits	130
Ashbins	1231

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The past year compares unfavourably with the extraordinarily good year which preceded it, but the figures (for which see Tables II. and V.) are below the average. None of the cases were fatal.

SMALL-POX.

Knutsford again escaped this disease last year, but the general incidence throughout the country increased considerably and vaccination and re-vaccination are more necessary than for many years past. Small-pox is frequently spread by tramps and Knutsford contains a workhouse. Knutsford is used as a shopping centre by a number of people who could without much more trouble shop elsewhere, and if there were any small-pox cases reported in the town it is quite certain they would. All tradespeople and especially caterers should bear this in mind both as regards themselves and their influence on others which is probably greater than they may be inclined to think.

MEASLES calls for no special mention this year. A Measles Visitor inspects cases in times of epidemic prevalence.

PNEUMONIA.—There were no notifications.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

All Infectious Diseases, including small-pox, have their treatment provided for in Manchester through the Bucklow Joint Hospital Board, of which Knutsford is a constituent authority.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is available for use by medical practitioners at any time, but no great use is made of it owing to the fact that almost every case goes immediately to hospital which is much the best procedure.

Return cases have not given trouble. True carrier cases have not been found.

Contact cases have been examined bacteriologically where required. No diseases have been notified under the Regulations of January, 1919. There have been no vaccinations or re-vaccinations performed under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations 1917.

TUBERCULOSIS.

For notifications with sex and ages see Table II. For the one (non-pulmonary) death see Table III.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action has been called for under these.

I am required by the Ministry's Circular to say whether notification of this disease is satisfactorily carried out and I am glad to say it is. The only death from tuberculosis during 1925 came under the heading "other tuberculous diseases" (i.e. not being tuberculosis) and it had been notified long before. Dispensary and Sanatorium treatment is in the hands of the County Council.

GENERAL HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE.

Knutsford has its own cottage hospital situated just outside the Urban area, there is also the Union Infirmary, and the Altrincham General Hospital and all the Manchester Hospitals to some of which the Council subscribes, are readily accessible. There is no motor or other ambulance provided by the Council and such would probably not be justified by the number of cases in which it would be employed.

LABORATORY WORK.

Arrangements for this work at the Manchester Public Health Laboratory are unchanged and continue to be perfectly satisfactory; 61 diphtheria specimens were examined in 1925, 16 being positive. There were 13 specimens of sputum examined for tuberculosis at the County Council Laboratory, of which 7 were positive.

LOCAL ACTS.—None.

GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Acts adopted are the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act; Parts II. and III.; P.H.A. Amendment Act 1890; and P.H.A. 1875 Section 112 as amended by Section 51 of P.H.A. Amendment Act 1907, P.H.A. Amendment Act 1890, Parts 2 and 3, Public Health (Water) Act 1878.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS (Milk and Dairies Amendment Act 1922.

Visits have been paid at varying intervals during the year to all Cowsheds and Milkshops within the Urban District Area. The occupiers of the various premises have kept them in a satisfactory state as to cleanliness. Notices have been served requiring limewashing and cleansing, and the making good of minor defects.

No structural alterations or enlargements of the various premises have been made during the year.

The Cattle have always appeared in good health and well fed.

The Milk Supply has not shown any trace of being the direct carrier or source of infection in any of the cases of Infectious Diseases which have occurred in the District.

The following is a summary of the persons now on the Register:—

Cowkeepers	6
Cowkeepers and Purveyors	1
Purveyors	11

—
18.

Note.—One person is registered as a resident Cowkeeper and Purveyor and Wholesale Dealer.

No registrations have been made during the year.

No registered person has given up business or been crossed off the Register.

BAKEHOUSES.—

The 12 Bakehouses now in use in the District are in the same tenancies as last year.

No new businesses have been opened and none closed:

The general conditions of the premises are as heretofore.

The only nuisances which have occurred have been want of cleansing and limewashing of the walls and ceilings. This work has been carried out at regular intervals to comply with the notices served on the tenants.

The various premises are kept in a satisfactory condition generally.

The various premises have been visited at varying intervals during the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES, &c.

The seven are still in the same hands as last year.

The various premises have been visited regularly throughout the year at intervals of not more than one month, and have usually been found in a clean condition and free from offal. All notices served on the occupiers requiring limewashing and cleansing have always been promptly complied with.

MEAT INSPECTION.—

During my visits of inspection to the Slaughter Houses and various places where food is prepared and sold I have found the following carcasses :—

Beef	69
Mutton	93
Pork	27
Veal	33
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Total	222

In almost every case I was able to inspect the internal organs of the animals slaughtered. These and the carcasses themselves appeared to be of good quality and sound.

All meat and fish exposed for sale in the Market on Market Days has been examined each week. This includes home killed and chilled or frozen meat. The fish included fresh fish and frozen salmon. All appeared satisfactory.

SANITARY STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) . Mr. Marshall, the Inspector (also acts as Surveyor). Part of these Officers' Salaries are contributed to through the County Council under the Public Health Acts.

Frank Davenport (Assistant Surveyor) now Assistant Surveyor for U.D. of Mablethorpe and Sutton, left the Knutsford U.D. in June 1923. Walter Kennedy was appointed Pupil Assistant in July 1925.

I have to thank Mr. Marshall for much valuable assistance during the year and in the preparation of this Report.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The work at the Centre has increased. Twenty-six Sessions have been held at which 82 children have made 337 attendances. This gives an average attendance of 13 per session. The number of home visits by the Health Visitor during 1925 was 1907.

The Infantile Mortality figure is 14 per thousand below that of 1924 and 18 per thousand below that of the country as a whole. The total numbers are too small to justify any great stress being laid on these figures, but as they stand they are very satisfactory.

ARTHUR T. BLEASE,

M.B., Ch B., M.R.C.S., Eng., L.R.C.P., Lond.

